

# Blackjack Bulletin

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2005

## FROM THE COMMANDER

Greetings Blackjacks,



I would like to start off the August Blackjack Bulletin by thanking all the soldiers and their families for everything that the company has accomplished in the last month. Everyone in the company, and that includes all the Blackjack families, make tremendous sacrifices on a daily basis and it is only because of all of you that we get to share in all of the company's achievements.

As the company inches closer to our deployment, I know that there are a lot of questions out there. I encourage all the families to come to the brigade deployment readiness briefing being held on September 12 and hopefully some of your questions and concerns will be addressed.

Pictured in the bottom right corner of this page is the company's new flight patch. A big thanks goes out to **CPL Jason Wahn** who designed the new Blackjack flight patch. He did a great job of taking the historic Vietnam patch and transforming it into our new logo.

The rest of August is going to be very busy. All of the aircraft are undergoing modifications to get them ready for the desert, the company is going to the field from the 17th to the 27th, the crew chiefs will be shooting aerial gunnery and we will be finishing pilot and crew chief progressions. Time off in August and September will be scarce, but I will grant leaves and passes on a case by case basis. Remember that our goal is deployment readiness, and soldiers have to be at work to receive the training they need to fight and win in Iraq. Thank you again for all the support from the FRG and Blackjack families. I look forward to seeing you all at the deployment briefing on September 12th.

BLACKJACKS!  
CPT John Miller

## **HOT NEWS**

### **Blackjack T-Shirt Contest**

Let us know what **YOU** want on our unit's T-Shirt!

**Deadline** for ideas is the **10th of September**. The artist who submits the winning design will be awarded a **ONE DAY PASS** (for themselves or a soldier of their choosing). Send/give your design ideas to CW2 Rob Buelna, [robert.buelna@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.buelna@us.army.mil).

## Mark Your Calendars

### **AUGUST**

- **17th – 27th:** Alpha Company in the field
- **19th:** Single Soldier Day at BELTON
- **22nd:** Neil McCoy signs CDs at the Clear Creek PX, 5 – 7 p.m.
- **27th:** Sports Physicals and School Immunization Clinic. Call 288-8888 for an appointment

### **SEPTEMBER**

- **2nd:** Training Holiday
- **5th:** Training Holiday
- **10th:** T-Shirt ideas due
- **12th:** Brigade Deployment Brief, 6:30 p.m. **FREE** child care is available but you must sign up by Aug. 29. Contact Mollie for details.
- **14th – 15th:** **FREE** FAP Marriage Workshop. Call 288-2863 for info.
- **20th:** Alpha Company Family Readiness Group Meeting at 7 p.m.



## *Alpha Company "Blackjacks" back in the air*

Originally used by Alpha Company, 4th Aviation Battalion, 4th Infantry Division during the Vietnam era, the call sign Blackjacks is once again alive within our company. Special thanks to **Cpl. Jason Wahn** for designing the company's new patch.

Pictured on the first page of this newsletter, the patch incorporates the playing cards of the former company with Cpl. Wahn's skillfully crafted hawk. Patches and t-shirts featuring the new design will soon be available to purchase. Be watching for more information in the coming weeks.



### FRQ NOTES

Greetings Blackjack Families,

It's hard to believe that summer has already come and gone and here we are already within just a few months of another 4th Infantry Division deployment. During this crazy time, I encourage you to try to take time for you and your families – there will always be another day for housework and homework.

As we move closer to the late November deployment of our soldiers, we need to think about how we can best prepare ourselves for the long separation. The **Sept. 12 deployment briefing** will be a great start for this preparation but I also encourage you to take any classes you feel might be beneficial and to get your affairs in order. Consider these things: Do you have a copy of your soldier's will? Do you know your insurance provider/bank/credit card company and how to get in touch with them? There are many questions associated with a deployment and I want to be able to help you find the answers. Please, never hesitate to contact me with concerns and questions.

I am still trying to solidify the Family Readiness Group team. If anyone is interested in volunteering to be the **FUNDRAISING CHAIR** for the group, please let me know. Also, we still need good emails, addresses, and phone numbers for the majority of the company. There are information sheets available for both SINGLE and MARRIED soldiers. Please fill these sheets out ASAP so we can get your loved ones added to the information network. You can pick up these sheets with CPT Miller or email me and I will send them to you. Special thanks to **Tiffany Muller, Jessica Buelna, and Brandy Garner** for their help verifying everyone's numbers and information.

As always, I am available to assist you as needed. You can reach me at [molliemariamiller@yahoo.com](mailto:molliemariamiller@yahoo.com), 200-0052 or 291-1058.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Everyone needing **child care for the Sept. 12** deployment brief needs to sign up with Mollie by Aug. 29.
- Those interested in volunteering for a **Care Team** during the deployment please contact Mollie. Care Teams will assist with food, transportation, child care, etc. in the event of a casualty in the brigade. Training will be provided.
- Mollie Miller's contact information: [molliemariamiller@yahoo.com](mailto:molliemariamiller@yahoo.com), 200-0052(h), 291-1058(c).

- Mollie

### HAIL & FAREWELL

*Wherever your road may lead, all our best wishes go too!*

- Best wishes to **Spc. Christopher Martinez** and his wife **Danielle** who have left the Army.
- Welcome to **CW2 Richard Montoya**, his wife **Janet** and their children **Jonas, Olivia**, and **Owen** who come to the company following a visit to the Sinai.
- Welcome to **WO1 Adan Caballero**, his wife **Jacquelyn** and their son **Logan** who are coming from Fort Rucker.
- Welcome to **Sgt. 1st Class Dawayne Piper**, his wife **Dianne**, and children **Amber, Brittany, Krista** and **Daniella**.
- Welcome to **Spc. Cash** who comes to the Blackjacks from C Company.
- Congratulations to **CW2 Justin Cohen, CW2 Elliot Morelan, Pfc. Carson Fore, Pfc. Matthew Duggan, Pfc. Tom Punnara, Pfc. Patrick Padilla**, and **Pfc. Amy Perry** on their recent promotions. Keep up the great work everyone!
- **BLACKJACK BABIES** - The Company is excited to welcome a new addition to the Blackjack team. Congratulations to **WO1** and **Mrs. Caballero** on the birth of their daughter **Alyssa**.

### SPECIAL DAYS

- This month, the Blackjacks wish **Mark Grumbach, Tom Punnara, Oscar Roldan**, and **Alexandra Duhachek** a very happy birthday. Best wishes for another wonderful year.

### OUT & ABOUT

- **Phantom Bowling** – Monday from 5 – 9 p.m. is family night at Phantom Warrior Lanes on Fort Hood. The cost is \$10 per lane per hour and includes shoes and a drink for each bowler.
- **On-Post Aerobics Classes** – Aerobics classes are offered at the Skating and Aerobics Center on 37th Street between Tank Destroyer and 761st Tank Battalion Ave. Classes are held Monday – Thursday from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Monday is kickboxing, Tuesday is Yoga, Wednesday is Step, Thursday is Step Circuit and Saturday offers a MEGA WORKOUT. For more information, call 288-3800.

## COMING SOON – MEET THE BLACKJACKS

Beginning next month, the newsletter will feature a special section dedicated to introducing members of the Blackjack team. If you have any ideas or suggestions for items to include in this newsletter, please contact Mollie Miller at [molliemariamiller@yahoo.com](mailto:molliemariamiller@yahoo.com) or at 200-0052 or 291-1058.

